

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DRUG COVERAGE MEANS EXTRA COST

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends this June 11, 1999 editorial from the Norfolk Daily News regarding President Clinton's plan for including prescription drug coverage under Medicare.

DRUG COVERAGE MEANS EXTRA COST

PRESIDENT HAS A PLAN FOR INCLUDING PRESCRIPTIONS UNDER MEDICARE PROGRAM

President Clinton believes he has a plan for including prescription drugs under Medicare coverage that is superior to the one suggested by the co-chairmen of his 17-member advisory commission. The latter plan advanced by Sen. John Breaux, D-La., and Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., would provide the elderly participants under Medicare with a fixed amount for purchasing either a public or private health plan, which could include expenses for prescription drugs.

That had the advantage of simplicity, but a political disadvantage of not providing opportunity for presidents and members of Congress to get credit for periodic improvement of all kinds of health care benefits.

The Clinton plan, promised to be presented in detail later this month, proposes drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries through the payment of an extra premium. It was predicted as being as low as \$10 a month and certainly less than \$25 a month.

In either event, it would be relatively cheap coverage, and appealing to those now covered by this government program where-by Social Security beneficiaries pay a \$45.50 premium for health insurance. Inclusion of drugs in the program will boost costs, though White House advisers claim they will be offset by reducing hospital admissions and nursing homes, and reduce the need for home health care. The question is: Who will pay?

Today's wage-earners should not be saddled with extra payroll taxes to provide this new coverage; neither should employers who are partners in paying the payroll taxes.

The problems with future solvency for the systems that provide Social Security retirement and Medicare arise from a political inability to fix benefit limits. Any expansion of benefits—especially for prescription drugs—must be accompanied by a sound program by which those who are served share the extra expense.

Using a federal surplus—which accumulates because Americans are already taxed too heavily—to expand government benefits is a politically devious way to resolve solvency problems of a program already destined for insolvency on its present path.

Better coverage will cost more; and those costs ought to be paid largely through realistic premiums for those who wish and can afford the extras.

COMMENDING TAIWAN'S EFFORTS TO ASSIST KOSOVAR REFUGEES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the United States Department of State said on June 7 that it welcomes Taiwan's plan to offer the United States \$300 million to help Kosovar refugees and for reconstruction of Kosovo. I think Taiwan is most praiseworthy in its willingness to assist other nations. As a major economic power in the Far East, Taiwan feels that it must not shirk its responsibilities to help other countries in need. Taiwan hopes to set a good example for other wealthy nations in the world to extend a helping hand to all those displaced Kosovar refugees.

As a matter of fact, even though Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations, Taiwan has always committed itself to help other countries in the Far East and Africa. Taiwan's willingness to be a donor nation deeply reflects its people's firm commitment to protect and promote human rights and their humanitarian concern for the Kosovar refugees living in exile as well as for the war-torn areas in dire need of reconstruction.

I applaud Taiwan's people for their assistance to the Kosovar refugees and their President.

HONORING THE 1999 DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL BOYS 4X100-METER RELAY TEAM

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 1999 Dunbar High School Boys 4x100-meter relay team for bringing the gold home to Fort Worth. With a championship time of 40.30 seconds at the University Interscholastic League in Austin, the Flying Wildcats electrified the crowd with blazing speed and power.

But the path to glory didn't end in Austin for the Wildcats. Instead of hanging up their spikes for the summer they took their show on the road to the Foot Locker National Championship at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. The Wildcats were eager to show the nation what everyone in North Texas already knew: the Wildcats from Stop Six, Ft. Worth couldn't be stopped in Austin and weren't about to be slowed down in Raleigh.

At the National Championship last week, the Wildcats took their stellar performance to North Carolina State University and won the 4x100 and 4x200-meter relays. The winning effort showed the whole country what Texas and Ft. Worth already knew: Fort Worth is "Speed City."

Once again congratulations to Coach Tom Allen and the Dunbar Boy sprinters: Jerome Braziel, Jerrod Braziel, James Hall, and James Shaw.

RECOGNIZING ALAN EMORY

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Alan Emory. On June 7, Mr. Emory began his 53rd year with the Watertown Daily Times. He has spent more than 47 of those years reporting and analyzing news in Washington. A year ago he became the paper's senior correspondent, reporting on politics and Canadian-United States relations, in addition to writing two columns a week, one Op-ed in midweek, one in the Times' Sunday Opinion Weekly Section.

Mr. Emory's most recent work includes breaking stories on: the dispute over the John Kennedy assassination film between the Zapruder family and the government, the assassination review board's failure in its last report to end the theories of how the President died, the continued federal secrecy surrounding the late physicist Glenn Seaborg's diaries, the significance of the Supreme Court's ruling that a sitting President must answer civil suit charges involving pre-White House activities, the fact that the House of Representatives has never censured a sitting President, the saga of the Navy crew making the most daring air-sea rescue in World War II's Pacific fighting and the service high command's refusal to give the crewmen the medals they had been promised 54 years ago, and the word that the only New York City mayor ever to ascend to a higher political office in the state was named Clinton (DeWitt).

Two years ago President Clinton and Vice President GORE saluted Mr. Emory's 50 years with The Times, and last year my colleagues JOHN MCHUGH, Jerry Solomon, JIM WALSH and TOM DAVIS commended him on the House floor. Today I would like to echo their praise and thanks to Alan for his good work, and wish him well as he continues as the Johnson Newspaper Corp.'s (Watertown's) senior correspondent and Washington columnist.

THE HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: THE STORY OF LUCILLE BRUCE

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you and the American people today to address the high cost of prescription drugs. Over the last several weeks, I have had the opportunity to visit with many of my constituents to address this burdensome problem.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.